

# SENATOR Ken Jacobsen

46TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Winter 2002

## 2002 Session Update

On Jan. 14, the 57th Washington State Legislature met in Olympia to embark on a 60-day regular session. The biggest issue facing lawmakers this year is a \$1.2 billion gap in the state budget that came after a recession swept through the state in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

With the sharp downturn in spending, Boeing and other companies were forced to lay off thousands of workers, triggering a recession and lower state revenues. Layoffs at Boeing will continue to affect the economy as 20,000 jobs or more are lost in the Puget Sound area. Economists say the state's economy could rebound as late as 2003.

The legislature will make some difficult decisions this year, as lawmakers work to repair the state budget. On one hand, we are struggling with a \$1.2 billion budget shortfall. On the other hand, the state faces rising costs in health care, higher public school enrollments, and increasing costs in corrections and human services.

Not to mention the continuing transportation crisis. Everyone agrees that freeing our roadways of gridlock is crucial to getting the state's economy back on track. But simply building more roads won't solve the problem. We need to take a balanced approach that includes efficiencies, as well as funding for buses and transit.

We have some very important work to do as we revitalize the state economy, and ensure that our citizens receive health care and our children receive quality educations. There will undoubtedly be cuts in services and programs, but we will strive to protect those who are in harm's way.

A souring economy and layoffs at Boeing are only part of the challenge. For nearly ten years, state services have been on a collision course with reality as voters have approved ballot measures that simultaneously cut state revenue and increase state services.

Recent initiatives—such as 601, 695, 728, and 732—have significantly impacted the state budget. Initiatives like 695 have decreased state revenue. At the same time, initiatives like 728 and 732 increased state spending. Needless to say, this makes it very difficult to develop a budget.

The legislature will be working diligently to create the best budget possible. For more information, please refer to the Senate Ways and Means Committee web site: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/senate/scs/wm/default.html>.

### We're all in this together

After Sept. 11, the nation came together and people rushed to help in whatever way they could. People found tremendous fulfillment reaching out to help others. As we recover from this tragedy and face the challenges that lie ahead, reaching out to others will be more important than ever.

We are fortunate to live in a community that offers so many opportunities for volunteerism. Many of us already give generously of our time and resources, balancing the demands of our careers with the rewards of helping others.

Several organizations match volunteers to charities. Your local library and the world wide web are two great places to start looking for volunteer opportunities, and to research groups that interest you. The following organizations may also be helpful:

### The City of Seattle

[www.ci.seattle.wa.us/html/citizen/community.htm](http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/html/citizen/community.htm)

### United Way of King County

(206) 461-3655

[www.uwkc.org/volunteer](http://www.uwkc.org/volunteer)

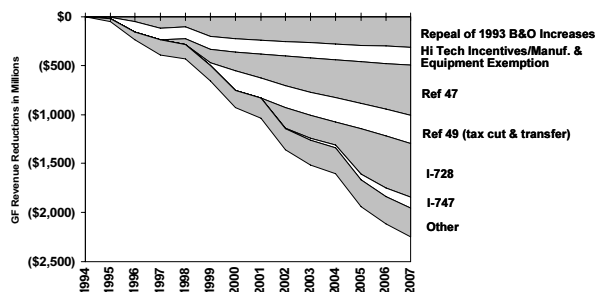
Thank you for your time and for your interest in state government. Please feel free to contact me in the future with any comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,



### Where Has all the Revenue Gone?

(Reductions to General Fund revenue since 1993)



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### Please keep in touch!

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### *Senator Ken Jacobsen committee assignments*

Natural Resources, Parks & Shorelines, Chair  
Environment, Energy & Water  
Higher Education  
Transportation